

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 14, 2012

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for signing the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act into law. As you know, Section 202 of that Act specifically mandates the imposition of sanctions on persons that aid in "obscuring or concealing the ownership, operation, or control of the vessel" belonging to the Government of Iran or entities owned and controlled by that government. Pursuant to this new authority, we urge you to designate the Tanzania Zanzibar International Register of Shipping based in the United Arab Emirates and the Tuvalu Ship Registry based in Singapore for their participation in Iranian attempts to conceal the ownership and control of vessels owned or controlled by the National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC).

Within the last several months, the ship registries of Tanzania and Tuvalu reflagged as many as 33 oil tankers owned or controlled by NITC. On July 12, 2012, the Treasury Department identified NITC as an entity of the Government of Iran and added its fleet to the Specially Designated Nationals list. In addition, the Tanzanian registry recently re-flagged 25 vessels designated by the Office of Foreign Assets Control in connection with Iran's proliferation activities. The actions of the Tanzanian and Tuvaluan ship registries directly undermine the international community's ongoing diplomatic efforts to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear and ballistic missile technology, and appear to be in violation of the legislation you just signed into law.

Therefore, we urge you to immediately designate the Tanzanian and Tuvaluan ship registries pursuant to Section 202 of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act.

Sincerely,



Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



Mark Kirk  
United States Senator